

ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

A central management apparatus determines whether or not data transmitted to the central management apparatus at the fixed time from a device management unit has arrived within the allowable time after the fixed time. When data have not arrived, it is determined that that device is a no reception device. When a plurality of devices are managed via connection to device management units using different communication methods, different allowable time are used for no reception determination in accordance with the communication method of the device management unit.